

## 1998–1999 Essay Contest on Military Innovation

*We use the term revolution in military affairs (RMA) a lot today. It comes up in briefings at the Pentagon. Journalists and academics write about it. We discuss it within the Armed Forces and with military leaders from other nations. That is as it should be, for RMAs can be disturbing. They demand considerable debate and dialogue if we are to master them. So what is the current RMA? Where does it stand today? And where will it go?*

*[T]he revolution is alive, healthy, growing, and stirring the debates, insights, and passions which accompany rapid and significant innovation, especially in the United States. Indeed, the world will increasingly refer to the “American” RMA, for while military thought outside this country reflects some aspects of what is underway, it is here that the discussion is deepest and the technologies that drive the revolution are most robust. And it is here that the integration of those technologies with each other and with military organization and doctrine has already begun.*

—Admiral William A. Owens, USN,  
writing in *JFQ* (Winter 1995–96)

[EDITOR’S NOTE: The articles contained in this *JFQ* Forum represent the winning entries in the 1998–1999 Essay Contest on Military Innovation. First place went to Lieutenant Colonel James R. Reinhardt, USA, Major Jonathan E. James, USAF, and Lieutenant Commander Edward M. Flanagan, USN, for “Future Employment of UAVs—Issues of Jointness.” Second place resulted in a tie between James D. Perry for his essay, “Air Corps Experimentation in the Interwar Years—A Case Study,” and Major Kevin J. Dougherty, USA, for an entry on “The Evolution of Air Assault” (the latter was also recognized as the best essay by an officer in the rank of major/lieutenant commander or below).

For details on the 1999–2000 essay contest, see the display advertisement on page 117.]